CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for testing a network service, the method comprising:

2   A sending an initial request to the network service;

3   B redirecting a related request sent by the network service to an actual network

4 service such that the related request does not reach the actual network service;

5   C emulating operation of the actual network service; and

6   D returning at least one response to the network service being tested, the at least

7 one response being responsive to the related request.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein sending an initial request comprises

2 sending a request to the network service being tested from a mock client.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein redirecting a related request comprises

2 intercepting the related request and rerouting it to a mock network service.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein rerouting the related request comprises

2 rerouting the related request by identifying a network address of the actual network

3 service in a database and determining an associated network address of the mock

4 network service.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein emulating operation of the actual

2   network service comprises emulating operation of the actual network service using a

3   mock network service.

1   6.   The method of claim 5, wherein emulating operation of the actual

2   network service using a mock network service comprises identifying request

3   information in a database and determining a pre-configured response associated with

4   the identified request information.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising prompting a user for

2   information to be used to generate the initial request.

1   8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a response

2   generated by the network service being tested, the response being reflective of the at

3   least one response returned to the network service being tested.

1   9.   A system for testing network services, the system comprising:

2   a   means for generating an initial request;

3   means for determining what actual network services are needed satisfy the

4   request;

5   b   means for redirecting a related request sent by the means for determining such

6   that the related request does not reach an actual network service;

7   c   means for emulating operation of at least one network service; and

8   d   means for returning at least one response to the means for determining, the at

9   least one response being responsive to the related request.

1   10.   The system of claim 9, wherein the means for generating comprise a

2   mock client.

1   11.   The system of claim 9, wherein the means for determining comprise

2   the network service being tested.

1   12.   The system of claim 9, wherein the means for redirecting the related

2   request comprise a redirection service.

1   13.   The system of claim 12, wherein the redirection service comprises a

2   database that correlates network addresses of actual network services with network

3   addresses of mock network services.

1   14.   The system of claim 9, wherein the means for emulating comprise at

2   least one mock network service.

1   15.   The system of claim 14, wherein the at least mock network service

2   comprises a database that correlates request information with pre-configured request

3   responses.

1   16.   A system for testing network services, the system comprising:

2   (a) a mock client that is configured to submit requests;

3   (b) a redirection service that is configured to redirect requests sent out by a

4   network under test and directed at actual network services; and

5   (c) at least one mock network service that emulates operation of at least one actual

6   network service, the at least one mock network service being configured to receive the

7   requests that have been redirected by the redirection service.

1   17.   The system of claim 16, wherein the mock client is further configured

2   to prompt a user for information to generate a request.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein the mock client is configured to

2   transmit the requests as extensible markup language (XML) messages that are

3   wrapped in simple object access protocol (SOAP) envelopes.

1   19.   The system of claim 16, wherein the redirection service comprises a

2   database that correlates network addresses of actual network services with network

3   addresses of mock network services.

1   20.   The system of claim 16, wherein the at least one mock network service

2   comprises a database that correlates request information with pre-configured request

3   responses.

1   21.   The system of claim 20, wherein the at least one mock network service

2   is configured to transmit responses as extensible markup language (XML) messages

3   that are wrapped in simple object access protocol (SOAP) envelopes.

1   22.   A test environment stored on a computer-readable medium, the

2   environment comprising:

3   (a)   logic configured to generate an initial request;

4   logic configured to determine what actual network services are needed satisfy

5   the request and transmit a related request to an actual network service;

6   (b)   logic configured to redirect the related request such that the related request

7   does not reach the actual network service; and

8   (c)   logic configured to emulate operation of the actual network service and return

9   at least one response to the logic configured to transmit a related request, the at least

10   one response being responsive to the related request.

        (d)

1   23.   The environment of claim 22, wherein the logic configured to generate

2   an initial request comprises a mock client.

1   24.   The environment of claim 22, wherein the logic configured to

2   determine and transmit a related request comprises a network service being tested.

1   25.   The environment of claim 22, wherein the logic configured to redirect

2   the related request comprises a redirection service.

1   26.   The environment of claim 22, wherein the logic configured to emulate

2   an actual network service comprises a mock network service.

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